MOTHERS' AND DAUGHTERS' OPINIONS CONCERNING DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS

by

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B. S., Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 1956

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Clothing, Textiles and Interior Design

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1968

Approved by:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author is deeply grateful to Dr. Donice Hawes, Major advisor, for her advice, guidance and encouragement throughout the course of the entire study. She also wishes to express her deep appreciation to Dr. Jessie Warden, Head of the Department of Clothing, Textiles and Interior Design, and Dr. Marjorie Stith, Head of the Department of Family and Child Development for their valuable constructive criticism on many aspects of the study.

A special thanks goes to Mrs. Rada Fogo who administered the pilot questionnaire.

Appreciation is extended to the writer's family, husband, Ned, and son, Mike, for their encouragement and valuable assistance.

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INTRODUCTION

Permanent press and durable press are terms used to describe a treatment applied to a fabric for preventing both the removal of creases and the formation of wrinkles during the wearing and washing of a garment. Most textile experts describe this treatment as the most important advance in the textile industry in recent years.

There are four basic methods which may be used to achieve durable press:

(1) The post cure or deferred cure: This method was developed and patented by Koratron Company of California. The blended fabric is impregnated with a cross-linking chemical agent to obtain a durable press finish. A cellulosic fiber, such as cotton or rayon, must be used to obtain this cross-linking reaction. After the fabric is impregnated, it is dried at a low temperature. It is cut, sewn, and pressed, then cured in the garment form in a batch or conveyor oven. This method causes shrinking; therefore, garments must be oversized (American Fabrics, Fall 1965). It is difficult to obtain accurate collar and sleeve sizes with the post cure or deferred cure method. This approach is best when it is impossible to pre-cure the whole garment. Examples would be skirts, pants, shorts, uniforms, dresses and jackets.

(2) Pre-cure: The blended fabric is impregnated with a cross-linking chemical agent which reacts only with the cellulosic component of the fabric. After it is cured in the flat state, it is cut, sewn, and pressed with a hot head press. The heat and pressure reshape the garment form, and set the non cellulosic thermoplastic fiber.

(3) Re-cure: This is a newer approach to durable press through the use of a special cross-linking reactant and a special catalyst. In this approach the fabric may be up to 85 per cent pre-cured at the mill (American Fabrics, Fall 1965). With steam pressing the pre-cure fabric is temporarily un-cured, then recured in either press or oven. Advantages of this approach include fabric stability, no odor, and unlimited shelf life.

(4) High temperature pressing: Fabrics which are made of 100 per cent, or nearly so, thermoplastic fibers may follow the no cure route. A chemical agent for a durable press finish is not used. The fabrics are pressed into shape at temperatures of 300° to 400°. Generally, polyester/acrylic or polyester/nylon blends are used in this approach. The fabrics are not as comfortable to wear as are the cotton/synthetic blends because they are not as absorbant. They also tend to be higher priced (American Fabrics, Fall 1965).

Durable press can mean one thing for one person, and quite different for someone else. Girls may prefer durable

press when their garments look nice all day long, while mothers may prefer durable press because of easier care. Whether the end results obtained from durable press fabrics is as good or better than other fabrics or not depends upon several factors: The method of imparting durable press, the fabrics used for durable press, the intended use of the durable press garment, the original fit of the garment, and the construction of the garment into which durable press is imparted.

Durable press fabrics are becoming a more accepted and important element in our society. It has been estimated that by the end of 1968, up to 90 per cent of men's dress shirts will be produced with durable press properties (Consumer Bulletin, September 1967). The number of womens' and girls' durable press garments available, and the range of selection is increasing each year. Future demands may require all washable garments to have durable press properties.

Because of the investigator's interest in and work with adolescent girls, it seemed important to study opinions, knowledge, and practices of adolescent girls toward the use of durable press garments. A deeper understanding of the real feelings of this age group toward durable press products should result in a better understanding of adolescents' preferences. In turn, it was hoped that this understanding would facilitate

guidance for the present and future selection and use of durable press products.

Objectives. The major objectives of this study were: (1) to compare opinions, knowledge, and practices of adolescent girls toward durable press with those of their mothers; and (2) to compare areas of agreement and disagreement between adolescent girls and their mothers regarding durable press garments.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The original development of durable press started with cotton more than ten years ago. In 1955 the National Cotton Council submitted two ideas related to durable press to the Southern Regional Research Laboratory. In 1956 the Cotton Council worked with Rohm and Haas Company in treating completed garments with resins. In 1956 the Koret patent application was filed. In 1957 Southern Regional Research Laboratories published the first paper on durable creased cotton (Buck, 1966).

From 1957 to 1964 there was continued research on durable press; however, it was almost impossible to convince mill operators, finishers or cutters that it was something special. Finally in 1964, Levi Strauss Company turned the tide with its Sta-Press all cotton slacks. The whole industry soon followed suit by using durable press fabrics (Newsweek, April 12, 1965).

The first durable press garments, made from 100 per cent cotton, were not entirely satisfactory (Fortess, 1966). The wrinkle resistance of the 100 per cent cotton slacks was excellent, but abrasion resistance was poor. The limited success of 100 per cent cotton durable press was a boon to the synthetic manufacturers. They poured millions of dollars into durable press research. Polyester/cotton blends were

promoted by many manufacturers (Denyee, 1966). Other blends, such ae polyester/rayon and aorylic/rayon were also used. Many have eaid that durable press hae made synthetic fibers necessary inetead of optional.

Preeent methods of oross-linking are used only with cellulosio fibers. The high oonoentration of chemicals and the high temperatures used reduoe the strength and durability of the fabrios. Durable prese finishee use 12-14 per cent resin eolide in the finishing eolution, whereas wash-and-wear finishes use only 4-6 per cent (Changing Timee, November 1965). Tensile strength lose of oellulosic fibere ranges from 35 per cent to 50 per cent when durable press finish ie applied (Americoan Fabrics, Winter 1964-1965). Therefore, tough, heavy duty cellulosic fabrice must be used, or they must be combined with fibers suoh as nylon or polyester to give the needed etrength and resietance to abrasion. Generally, the lighter the fabric, the higher the per oent of thermoplastio fiber needed in the blend (American Fabrics, Fall 1965).

Problems Assooiated with Durable Press. There have been several major problems aseooiated with durable press. One of the most important of these problems, which hae already been mentioned, is the lowered abrasion resistanoe when this finish hae been added. Thie problem is most prominent in fabrics of 100 per oent ootton; therefore, the trend hae been to use

polyester/cotton blends when a durable press finish is desired (What's New In Home Economics, September 1966). Originally, 65 per cent polyester/35 per cent cotton was considered the most desirable. Later, 50 per cent polyester/50 per cent cotton was considered more favorable in many aspects (Consumer Bulletin, September 1967). At the present time, the National Cotton Council is involved in the development and improvement of 100 per cent cotton durable press. The Council gathers the information, then turns the information over to the industry to use for cotton. Because of the wide acceptance of polyester/cotton blends, cotton will have an uphill battle to gain status of 100 per cent cotton in the durable press market (Buck, 1966).

The use of a polyester fiber has created other problems. Odor of perspiration is difficult to remove. Also, yellowing and pilling have been associated with the use of a polyester fiber (Consumer Bulletin, September, 1967).

Several advantages for using 100 per cent cotton for durable press have been reported. Some of these advantages are: (1) durable press basically depends on cotton for the permanent setting of cross linking chemicals, (2) cotton is insensitive to temperatures, (3) cotton can be handled by any of the three common dying methods, (4) cotton has a superior advantage in laundering, (5) cotton does not pill like synthetics, (6) cotton is usually considered comfortable, (7) cutting, sewing, and pressing is easier with cotton, and

(8) cotton is more economical (Buck, 1966). Many in the Cotton Council are optomistic and believe all cotton durable press is here, and here to stay.

Another major problem associated with garments made of durable press fabric has been puckering of the seams. This can be avoided with correct fabric selection, cutting techniques, sewing procedures, and thread selection. In general, the greater the density of the fabric, the greater the likelihood of puckering. Very fine long needles and modern thread tend to lessen the amount of puckering (Doniger, 1966).

Satisfactory alterations have been next to impossible with durable press garments. Therefore, correct original fit is important. If a garment is to be altered, it is more satisfactory to alter it to be smaller, rather than larger. A product, termed "Alteration Ease," by J. P. Stevens and Company, has been marketed to facilitate alterations on durable press garments. This product must be used on fabrics with cellulosic content, such as cotton or rayon. Although it helped in smoothing the original crease, the appearance of the altered seams was still not fully satisfactory (Consumer Bulletin, September 1966).

Durable press fabrics are now available by the yard for the home seamstress. The main difficulty encountered in home sewing of durable is in the stitching and pressing. The

following suggestions were given by the J. C. Penney Company to enable the seamstress to enjoy the benefits of constructing her own durable press garments: The pattern should be simple; zippers and interfacing must be preshrunk; mercerized cotton thread, size 50 or 60 should be used; ten stitches per inch, with a relaxed tension is recommended for machine stitching; pressing during construction is important; the final pressing should be with a hot iron. When sewing, it is necessary to use a reduced speed at the machine, and avoid pulling on the seams.

Unless a durable press garment is properly constructed, it will never be entirely satisfactory in service. It is important that the thread, zippers, linings, and seam bindings are able to withstand high temperatures, and not shrink more than the fabric, thus causing puckering (Consumer Bulletin, November 1965).

The industry is continuing to spend much time and money on research trying to solve the problem of oily stains. The main approaches are: (1) the formulation of special finishes to prevent staining, (2) the formulation of special finishes to permit easy removal of oily stains, and (3) the development of more effective cleaning agents. It was also believed that nonionic detergents remove grease and oil from durable press better than anionic detergents. Washing in very hot water may worsen spotting caused by oil (Consumer Bulletin, September

1967). Washing of durable press garments should be in a normal sized load. Tumble drying is recommended over line drying. Garments should be removed from the dryer immediately after oompleting the drying oyole (Consumer Bulletin, June 1967).

All durable press garments need proper laundering to be oompletely satisfaotory. If durable press garments are to be home laundered, it is recommended to use low water temperature, low agitation, and a low spinning rate (Consumer Report, May 1966). Many manufaoturers recommend that spinning be avoided. Lightly soiled garments should not be laundered with heavily soiled garments. It is also important to avoid crowding in the washer. Tumble drying is reoommended over line drying. Garments should be removed from the dryer immediately upon completion of the drying oyole to prevent wrinkles (Consumer Bulletin, November 1965).

Color stability has been another problem with durable press garments. In the post ouring or baking, there is often a shifting of the color, causing shading (Doniger, 1966).

The cost of durable press garments is usually slightly more than the same garments without the durable press finish (Changing Times, November 1965). However, the homemaker may easily justify the extra cost through savings of time and labor when no ironing is neoessary.

Influences on Shopping Habits. The adolescent consumer of today has more purchasing power than ever before. Because of this purchasing power, adolescents are having an increasing impact on family clothing consumption patterns (University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 478, 1965). Therefore, more time and effort should be applied to instructing adolescents to become intelligent consumers.

Consumer buying intent may be classified into four catagories: (1) impulse buying, (2) convenience items, (3) shopping items, and (4) speciality items (Groenveld, 1964). This concept was based on a gradation of buying intent with regard to purchases extending from an absence of pre-thought to a great amount of pre-thought.

Parents and peers tend to influence adolescents in separate but overlapping behavorial domains. The peer group had the most influence over the 'style of clothing' and 'what looks good.' The parents had the most influence with respect to school courses, jobs, or very difficult delimina (Brittain, 1967-1968).

Conflicts between parents and adolescents, in regard to their dress, has been an age old problem. Confliots may stimulate the intelligent child to develop his intellectual growth, since every confliot required some sort of solution. However, the reversed effect may result, emotionally disturbing adolescents involved in numerous conflicts (Block, 1937).

The selection of clothing fabric and dress style preferences may be an indication of body build and personality characteristics. In a study comparing body build and personality characteristics of delinquent girls to non delinquent girls, the following conclusions were reached: Delinquent girls were significantly larger in bust measurement and height-weight ratio than were the non delinquent girls. The delinquent girls chose fewer strong figure-ground contrasts in clothing fabrics, but chose warm colors, small designs, and showed more interest in surface texture than did the non delinquent girls (Compton, 1957).

Parents, teachers, school administrators, and retail personnel must become aware of the importance to the adolescent of being socially approved by his peer group. Since clothing is the basis of the adolescent's appearance, it is of utmost importance to him.

PROCEDURE

The data for the study comparing mothers' and daughters' opinions concerning durable press garments was obtained from responses to a questionnaire developed by the investigator. Prior to administering the questionnaire to the Wichita High School South, Wichita, Kansas, students and their mothers, a pilot study was conducted with an advanced homemaking class at the high school in Leon, Kansas. Fifteen junior and senior girls completed the preliminary questionnaire. A similar preliminary questionnaire was sent home with the girls for their mothers to complete. Girls completing the preliminary questionnaire were asked to verbalize questions concerning statements on the questionnaire which were not clear to them. The mothers were asked to record such questions. From the recorded questions, and compiled results, revisions were made for the final questionnaire.

Forty eleventh and twelfth grade girls, enrolled in clothing classes in senior high school, and their mothers, were the sample used in this study. The study was conducted at Wichita High School South, Wichita, Kansas, in the spring of 1968. All students in the sample (a) lived in the same household as their mother, (b) were 16 to 18 years of age at the time of the study, (c) were presently enrolled in a

clothing class where durable press had been studied, and (d) owned at least one durable press garment.

A check list questionnaire, designed to obtain information concerning adolescent girls' opinions toward durable press garments, was completed by the students and their mothers. The purpose of the questionnaire and directions for completing it were explained to the student subjects by the investigator when the questionnaire was administered. A letter explaining the questionnaire to the mothers was sent home with the students. (Appendices I - IV). Questions were designed to obtain opinions related to ownership, serviceability, satisfaction, and care of durable press garments.

Item five on the questionnaire, concerning tensile strength loss when durable press finishes are applied to cellulosic fabrics, was adapted from American Fabrics (Fall 1965). This item emphasized the fact that heavy duty cellulosic fabrics must be used, or they must be combined with a thermoplastic fiber to give the needed strength and resistance to abrasion.

Characteristics that are sometimes associated with durable press garments were listed in item eleven. This list of characteristics was compiled from statements in Modern Textiles Magazine (Special Edition 1966), Consumer Bulletin

(September 1967), What's New In Home Economics (September 1966) and Consumer Bulletin (November 1965).

Item twelve surveyed the opinions of adolescent girls and their mothers regarding the validity of statements concerning durable press. These statements were adapted from Consumer Report (May 1966).

Percentages were used to compare the opinions indicated by the respondents on the questionnaire between the adolescent girls and the mothers. Percentages which ended in .5 or more were increased to the next whole number until it affected the total; those ending in less than .5 per cent were dropped. Comparison of these opinions should result in a deeper understanding of adolescent girls' and their mothers' attitudes toward durable press products and facilitate a better understanding of adolescent fabric preferences. It was also hoped that this understanding would facilitate guidance for the present and future selection and use of durable press products.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Forty eleventh and twelfth grade daughters, enrolled in clothing classes in senior high school, and their mothers were the sample used in this study. All students in the sample (a) lived in the same household as their mother, (b) were 16 to 18 years of age at the time of the study, (c) were presently enrolled in a clothing class where durable press had been studied, and (d) owned at least one durable press garment. Table I shows the classification distribution of the student respondents used in the preliminary study and the final study. Different respondents were used for the final study than were used for the preliminary study.

TABLE I

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Classification	Preliminary Study		Final Study	
	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects	Number of Subjects	Percentage
Eleventh grade	13	87	30	75
Twelfth grade	2	13	10	25
Total	15	100	40	100

Responses indicating the number of durable press garments owned by the daughters differed slightly between the students and the mothers. Twenty eight (70 per oent) daughters and thirty four (86 per oent) mothers indioated the daughters owned three or four durable press garments. Nine (23 per cent) daughters, but only four (9 per cent) mothers replied the daughters owned one or two durable press garments. Three (7 per oent) daughters and two (5 per oent) mothers did not know how many durable press garments the daughters owned. Table II presents this tabulation.

TABLE II

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS OWNED BY DAUGHTERS REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS

Number of Durable Press Garments	Daughters		Mothers	
	Number of Subjeots	Peroent-age of Subjeots	Number of Subjects	Peroent-age of Subjeots
One	4	10	3	7
Two	5	13	1	2
Three	4	10	5	13
Four or more	24	60	29	73
Don't Know	3	7	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100

Thirteen (33 per oent) of the daughters indioatsd that they had obtained their first durable press garment within the last year. However, only about one sixth of the mothers gave the same response. Eight (20 per oent) of the mothers replied their daughter obtained her first durable press garment mors than three years ago. Only one daughter indioated she had obtained her first durable press garment more than thres ysars ago.

The daughters and their mothsrs basically agreed as to when the daughtsr obtained hsr last durable press garment. Thirty five (87 per oent) of the mothers indioated it had been purchassd within the last year while thirty six (90 per cent) of the daughters gave the same response. No ons indicated the last durable press garment had been purchased "more than two years ago," or "more than three years ago."

Blousss or shirts were indioated by both mothers and daughters as the most oommonly owned durable press garment. Thirty six (90 per oent) of ths mothers and thirty two (80 per cent) of the daughters reported that the daughters owned durable prsss blouses or shirts. Twenty four (60 per oent) of the daughters reportsd they owned slaoks or shorts of durable press fabrio. Twenty two (55 per oent) of the daughters replied they owned durable press dresses. The mothers reversed the ordsr of the last two daughter's ohoioes, with twenty seven (67 per oent) of the mothers indioating their daughtsrs owned

durable press dresses and twenty six (65 per oent) of the mothers replied the daughters owned durable press slacks or shorts. Other durable press garments owned by the daughters included skirts, jackets, bathrobes and slips.

Many authors have stated that the high oonoentration of ohemioals and the high temperatures necessary to produce durable press reduces its strength and durability. Tensile strength loss of cellulosio fibers ranges from thirty five per oent to fifty per oent when durable press finish is applied (American Fabrics, Fall 1965). Contrary to this, twenty five (63 per cent) of the mothers and twenty four (60 per oent) of the daughters expected the durable press garment to have a longer life than the non durable press garment. Only four (10 per oent) of the mothers and seven (18 per cent) of the daughters expeoted the durable press garment to have a shorter life. The remaining eleven (27 per oent) of the mothers and nine (12 per oent) of the daughters expeoted the durable press garment to have approximately the same life as the non durable press garment.

The oost of durable press garments is usually slightly more than the same garments without the durable press finish (Changing Times, November 1965). Thirty two (80 per oent) of the mothers and thirty one (78 per cent) daughters surveyed agreed with this statement. Eight (20 per oent) daughters and seven (18 per oent) mothers replied they expeoted to pay

approximately the same for the durable press garment as a garment without durable press properties. Only one respondent from eaoh group expeoted to pay slightly less for the durable press garment. In a latter part of the survey, the respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement "the prolonged wrinkle-free appearance of a durable press garment substantiates any additional oost." The responses from thirty three (83 per oent) of the mothers agreed with this statement was oomparable to the thirty one (78 per cent) of the daughters who also agreed.

It was found that twelve (30 per cent) of the mothers and ten (25 per oent) of the daughters thought durable press garments fit better than non durable press garments. However, the majority, twenty seven (68 per oent) of the mothers and twenty eight (70 per oent) of the daughters thought the fit was the same with the durable press garments as with the non durable press.

Twenty (50 per oent) of the mothers and eighteen (45 per cent) of the daughters reported approximately the same range of selection of garments with a durable press finish as without the durable press finish. Ten (25 per oent) of the mothers and nine (23 per oent) of the daughters thought there was a better seleotion of garments with a durable press finish than without the durable press finish. The remaining ten (25 per oent) of the mothers and thirteen (32 per oent) of the

daughters replied there was less selection of garments with the durable press finish than without the durable press finish.

The majority of mothers and daughters indicated that garments with a durable press finish looked better than garments without such a finish. Thirty three (83 per cent) of the mothers and thirty one (78 per cent) of the daughters thought a garment with a durable press finish retained a much better appearance than did a comparable garment without the finish after each had been worn several hours. Six (15 per cent) of the mothers and five (12 per cent) of the daughters indicated that garments with a durable press finish retained a slightly better appearance than garments without the finish. Only one mother and four daughters thought the garments without the durable press finish retained approximately the same appearance as did garments without the finish.

Twenty six (65 per cent) of the mothers and fifteen (38 per cent) of the daughters reported they "always" check the label for durable press qualities when buying garments. The remaining fourteen (35 per cent) of the mothers indicated they "sometimes" check the label, whereas twenty four (60 per cent) of the daughters replied they sometimes check the label. Only one girl "never" checked the label when buying.

Responses to the statements "seams remain smooth after laundering" and "no pressing is required with durable press garments" indicated conflicting opinions toward durable press

garments. Twenty (50 per cent) of the mothers and twenty five (63 per cent) of the daughters replied that seams usually remain smooth after laundering, yet only eight (20 per cent) of the mothers and sixteen (40 per cent) of the daughters indicated that usually no pressing is necessary with durable press garments. The eighteen (45 per cent) of the mothers and thirteen (32 per cent) of the daughters who replied "sometimes seams remain smooth after laundering" were comparible to the twenty three (58 per cent) of the mothers and nineteen (48 per cent) daughters who indicated "sometimes no pressing is required with durable press garments." Only two (5 per cent) of the mothers and two (5 per cent) of the daughters indicated seams never remain smooth after laundering, while nine (22 per cent) of the mothers and five (12 per cent) of the daughters replied some pressing is always necessary. Table III presents this tabulation.

Thirty four mothers (85 per cent) agreed that durable press garments which are tumble dried have a better appearance than durable press garments which have been line dried. Twenty seven (68 per cent) of the daughters agreed with this statement. However, twelve mothers, (30 per cent) and eleven daughters, (28 per cent) indicated the daughter's durable press garments were line dried.

The mothers agreed unanimously that "durable press garments which are tumble dried must be removed from the dryer

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF RESPONSES TO STATEMENTS, "SEAMS REMAIN SMOOTH AFTER LAUNDERING" AND " NO PRESSING IS REQUIRED WITH DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS."

Text of question asked and possible responses	Daughters		Mothers	
	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects
Seams remain smooth after laundering				
Usually	25	63	20	50
Sometimes	13	32	18	45
Never	2	5	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100
No pressing is required with durable press garments				
Usually	16	40	8	20
Sometimes	19	48	23	58
Never	5	12	9	22
Total	40	100	40	100

immediately upon drying or pressing is necessary." Thirty seven (92 per cent) daughters agreed with the statement.

Mothers were also in complete agreement with their daughters on the statement "durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press." Forty (100 per cent) of each group agreed with this statement.

The statement "stains are easily removed" was checked by the affirmative "usually" by seventeen mothers, (43 per cent) and eight daughters (20 per cent). Seventeen (42 per cent) of the mothers checked that sometimes stains are easily removed. Twenty seven daughters (68 per cent) checked sometimes in response to this question. Only six (15 per cent) of the mothers and five (12 per cent) of the daughters replied that stains in durable press were seldom or never easily removed.

Satisfactory alterations were seldom or never satisfactory for eleven (28 per cent) of the mothers and for twelve (30 per cent) of the daughters. There was a different picture presented by the eight mothers (20 per cent) and thirteen girls (33 per cent) who replied that alterations were usually or always satisfactory. The remaining twenty one (52 per cent) of the mothers and fifteen (37 per cent) of the daughters agreed that sometimes alterations can be made satisfactorily in durable press garments.

In response to the question "how do you think the amount of time required to launder durable press garments compares to non durable press?" twelve mothers (30 per cent) and five daughters (12 per cent) believed more time is required for durable press because the loads should be smaller. However, the majority, twenty two (55 per cent) of the mothers and thirty one (78 per cent) of the daughters checked the same amount of time for durable press as non durable press because the loads can be equal. It was found that six (15 per cent) of the mothers and four (10 per cent) of the daughters believed less time is required for durable press because the loads can be larger.

Perspiration odor remaining in durable press garments presented no problem for nineteen (48 per cent) of the mothers or for seventeen (43 per cent) of the daughters. However, the negative responses of "seldom or never" to the statement "perspiration odor is easily removed from durable press garments" was indicated by five mothers (12 per cent), and eight girls (20 per cent). The remaining sixteen mothers (40 per cent) and fifteen daughters (37 per cent) checked sometimes perspiration odor is easily removed.

Thirty (75 per cent) mothers and twenty five (63 per cent) daughters replied that usually or always zippers, bindings, interfacing and linings in a durable press garment cause no problem in laundering. An additional eight mothers (20 per

cent) and eleven daughters (27 per cent) qualified their answers by checking that sometimes these items launder the same as does the durable press garment. Two mothers and four girls replied that these items seldom or never launder the same.

The statements "there is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments," and "there is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments" indicated similar responses, especially from the mothers. Of the forty mothers responding, twenty six (65 per cent) replied there was usually an adequate choice of styles of durable press garments available. This was comparable to the twenty seven (68 per cent) of the mothers who replied there was usually an adequate choice of colors of durable press garments. The number of daughters who replied there usually was an adequate selection of both colors and styles was slightly lower; nineteen (48 per cent) of the daughters indicated usually an adequate choice of styles were available, whereas twenty five (63 per cent) of the same group indicated there was usually an adequate choice of colors available. Two of the mothers indicated there was seldom or never adequate choice of styles or colors. One daughter thought there was seldom or never adequate choice of styles, but she agreed with all the other daughters who indicated there was sometimes or always an adequate choice of colors. The remaining twelve (30 per cent) of the mothers and twenty (50 per cent) of the daughters indicated that sometimes there

was an adequate choice of styles available, whereas eleven (27 per cent) of the mothers and fifteen (37 per cent) of the daughters replied that sometimes there was an adequate choice of colors available. The number and per cent of responses to these statements are shown in Table IV.

Thirty (75 per cent) of the mothers agreed fewer clothes are required with durable press garments because they can be laundered so easily. The daughters believed differently about this matter, as only fourteen (35 per cent) agreed with this statement. There was much difference of opinion between mothers and daughters on this statement. It was noted that nine (23 per cent) of the mothers and eight (20 per cent) of the daughters indicated the daughters never launder their own durable press garments. Eight mothers, (20 per cent) and twelve daughters (30 per cent) indicated the daughter usually laundered her own durable press garments. The remaining majority of twenty three (57 per cent) of the mothers and twenty (50 per cent) of the daughters indicated the daughter sometimes laundered her own durable press garments.

In the area of "method of washing" the question was asked "how are your daughter's durable press garments usually washed?" There was a difference of opinion by only two daughters and their mothers as to whether they laundered their durable press garments in an automatic washer or by hand. Thirty four (85 per cent) of the mothers indicated they used

TABLE IV

COMPARISON OF RESPONSES TO STATEMENTS "THERE IS AN ADEQUATE CHOICE OF STYLES AVAILABLE OF DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS," AND "THERE IS AN ADEQUATE CHOICE OF COLORS AVAILABLE OF DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS."

Text of question asked and possible responses	Daughters		Mothers	
	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects
There is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments				
Usually	19	48	26	65
Sometimes	20	50	12	30
Never	1	2	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100
There is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments				
Usually	25	63	27	68
Sometimes	15	37	11	27
Never	1	2	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100

an automatic washer to launder durable press. Of these, twenty nine replied the washer had a special setting for durable press. Thirty two daughters (80 per cent) stated an automatic washer was used for their durable press garments, and of these, fifteen indicated the washer had a special setting for durable press. Five (12 per cent) daughters did not know if their washer had a durable press setting. Table V presents the results of the respondents' choices.

TABLE V

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED METHODS FOR WASHING DAUGHTER'S DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS

Method of Washing	Daughters		Mothers	
	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Subjects
By hand	6	15	4	10
Wringer washer	2	5	2	5
Automatic - at home	29	73	32	80
Automatic at laundromat	3	7	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The major objectives of this study were: (1) to compare opinions, knowledge, and practices of adolescent girls toward durable press with those of their mothers; and (2) to compare areas of agreement and disagreement between adolescent girls and their mothers regarding durable press garments.

The eighty subjects used for the study were comprised of forty junior and senior girls enrolled in clothing classes at Wichita High School South, and their mothers. A check list questionnaire was used for collecting data. The responses of the forty daughters were compared to the mothers' responses.

The number of respondents in this study was too small to draw general conclusions about the satisfactory use of durable press garments for all adolescent girls. However, a few generalizations could be stated about the satisfactory use of durable press garments for girls in Wichita High School South.

The majority of the mothers and daughters reported that daughters owned four or more garments made of durable press. Only two mothers and three daughters did not know the number.

Thirty three per cent of the daughters indicated they had obtained their first durable press garment within the last

year, whereae only eix mothers indioated that the daughters obtained their first durable press garment within the last year. Twenty nine per cent of the respondents from each group agreed the daughter's first durable press garment was obtained more than one year ago. Six mothers and ten daughters oould not remember when the first durable press garment was purchased.

Ninety five per oent of the mothers and ninety three per oent of the daughters indicated that the last durable press garment had been obtained within the last year. Two mothers and three daughters did not remember the date.

Both groupe agreed the durable press garmente which daughters most often possessed were blouses or shirts, dresses, and slacks or shorts. Skirts ranked fourth.

A large majority of the girls and their mothers expeoted durable press garments to last at leaet as long as similar garments of non durable prees. Sinoe all of the daughters surveyed owned at least one durable press garment, it was ooncluded that eubjecte were satisfied with the life of their durable press garments.

Moet respondents expected to pay slightly more for the durable press garment. However, one mother and one daughter indicated they expected to pay slightly less for the durable press garment.

The findings indioated the fit of durable press garments compared favorably with non durable press garments.

Approximately ninety five per oent of both groups replied the fit of durable press was the same or better than non durable press.

Most respondents thought there was approximately the same range of selection in durable press as non durable press garments. Twenty five per oent of the mothers and twenty three per cent of the daughters indicated there was a better selection of durable press. Twenty five per oent of the mothers and thirty three per oent of the daughters indicated less selection in durable press than non durable press garments.

A large majority of the mothers and daughters replied that a durable press garment retained a muoh better appearance than did a non durable press garment, after each had been worn several hours. One mother and daughters indicated the appearance to be the same, but no one indioated the appearance of the non durable press garment was better than the durable press. When buying garments, labels for durable press qualities were "always" checked by sixty seven per cent of the mothers and thirty eight per oent of the daughters. Sixty per cent of the daughters and thirty five per cent of the mothers indicated that "sometimes" they oheck the label. Only one daughter admitted she "never" ohecked the label.

In response to statements associated with garments made from durable press fabric, the largest number of negative "never" responses from the mothers were in regard to

"alterations can be made satisfactorily," "the original price of a durable press garment is no higher than the same garment without durable press," and "perspiration odor can be easily removed from durable press garments," received the most negative answers from the daughters.

There were affirmative answers of "usually" or "always" by the majority of both groups to the statements "seams remain smooth after laundering," "zippers, bindings, interfacing or linings in durable press launder the same as in non durable press," "there is an adequate choice of styles available" and "there is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments." These factors were not considered a problem for the majority of respondents.

All mothers and daughters indicated the daughters "sometimes" or "always" selected their own garments. However, twelve per cent of the mothers and twenty two per cent of the daughters indicated that the daughters never have money from a job or an allowance with which to purchase their own durable press garments. Twenty per cent of the mothers and thirty five per cent of the daughters stated that the daughters usually had money from a job or an allowance with which to purchase their own durable press garments. The remaining sixty eight per cent of the mothers and forty three per cent of the daughters checked that "sometimes" the daughters had the money.

The majority of the respondents indicated they did not know the number of durable press garments the daughter would purchaee during the next year. Ths remainder of the respondents planned for the daughters to purohase three or more durable press garments.

Seventy five per cent of the mothers, but only thirty five psr oent of the daughters, "agreed" that fewer olothes are required, beoause of ease of laundering when durable press garments are owned. This was one of the few areas of dieagreement betwesn mothers and daughters.

All of the mothers agreed that durable press garments whioh are tumble dried must be removed from ths dryer immediately upon drying, or pressing is necessary. Ninety three per oent of the daughters agreed with the statement.

Mothers and daughters unanimously agreed that durable prees garmente are easier to oare for than similar garments of non durable press. This was the only statement in the questionnaire of whioh the groups unamiously agreed.

Fifty fivs per cent of the mothers and seventy eight per oent of the daughters in this study "agreed" the amount of time required to launder durable prese garments is the same as non durable press as the loads can be equal. However, Consumer Report (May 1966) emphasized it was important to avoid orowding the washer and reoommended smaller than usual loade.

The majority of respondents in this study washed their durable press garments in an automatio washer, and dried them in an automatio dryer. A large per cent of the automatic washers had special settings for durable press garments.

One limitation of this study was that only girls enrolled in clothing classes were inoluded. The sample was limited to one high school. No oontrol was plaoed on the socio-economio status of the subjeot's family.

In view of the findings being based on a limited sample, it was ooncluded that:

1. Durable press garments retain a better appearance than non durable press garments after garments of each type have been worn several hours.

2. The fit of durable press garments oompares favorably with the fit of non durable press garments.

3. Choioe of styles and oolors available of durable press garments is adequate.

4. The life of durable press fabrio is satisfactory for adolescent girls.

5. The mothers agreed, but the daughters disagreed, that if all garments were durable press, a lesser number of garments would be necessary due to ease of laundering.

6. Durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press.

7. Contrary to reported problems in the literature, with durable press garments, mothers and daughters were satisfied with the appearance of seams after laundering and the wearing qualities of durable press fabric.

Socio-economic status could be taken into consideration and used as a variable in further research involving use of durable press. This could influence the results of original choice of garments and how they are laundered.

Additional studies are needed to establish criteria to use as a guide in the selection of durable press garments. This research could add information and interest for clothing instructors in the areas of consumer buying and care of garments.

Studies to compare the physiological effect of wearing durable press garments with non durable press would be beneficial to all consumers.

The findings of this study of durable press have implications for the fields of Clothing, Textiles and Interior Design, Family Economics, and Family and Child Development in training and helping adolescent girls to prepare to become intelligent, well groomed consumers and competent homemakers. Additional research could prove helpful to clothing teachers, retail stores' personnel, and mothers in assisting adolescent girls in buying, wearing, and caring for durable press garments.

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APPENDICES

OUTLINE FOR EXPLAINING PURPOSE AND DIRECTIONS IN ADMINISTRATING QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE USED BY INVESTIGATOR

I. Purpose

A. This is a short questionnaire oonoerning durable press, to be used in a study for graduate work at Kansas State Univsrsity.

B. It is a survey of your feelings and opinions.

II. Directions

A. There are no right or wrong answers.

B. You do not need to put your name on the questionnaire.

O. Plaoe a oheck mark in the blank that expresses your opinion.

D. In some parts of this questionnaire, you may check several statements if more than one exprssses your opinion.

E. When you havs oompleted your questionnaire, turn it over on your desk. It will be collected when everyone has completed her questionnaire.

F. Your help and oooperation ars appreoiated.

G. Are there any questions?

HOW DO DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS COMPARE TO NON DURABLE PRESS?

The purpose of this survey is to disoover the opinions of adolescent girls toward the use of durable press. Read each question carefully, then plaoe a oheck (✓) in the blank that best describes your situation or opinion. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not need to write your name on this paper.

1. How many garments do you own which are durable press?

___ zero ___ one 2 two 2 three

10 four or more 1 don't know

2. When did you obtain your first durable press garment?

4 within the last year 1 more than three years ago

7 more than one year ago 3 do not remember

___ more than two years ago

3. When did you obtain your last durable press garment?

14 within the last year ___ more than three years ago

___ more than one year ago 1 do not remember

___ more than two years ago

4. What garments do you now own which are durable press?

10 blouses or shirts ___ coats

7 skirts ___ bathrobe

9 slacks or shorts 1 underwear other (name article)

11 dresses ___ none

1 jackets

5. How do you expect the life of a durable press garment to oompare with a similar garment which is non durable press?

3 a shorter life for the durable press garment

9 a longer life for the durable press garment

3 approximately the same life for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

6. What do you expect to pay for a durable press garment in comparison to the same garment without durable press?

__1__ slightly less for the durable press garment

__12__ slightly more for the durable press garment

__1__ approximately the same for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

7. How do you think the fit of a durable press garment compares with the fit of a non durable press garment?

__2__ durable press garments fit better than non durable press

__1__ durable press garments do not fit as well as non durable press

__12__ the fit is the same with durable press garments as with non durable press

8. How do you think the selection of durable press garments in your size compares to non durable press garments?

__5__ there is a better selection in durable press than in non durable press

__4__ there is less selection in durable press than in non durable press

__6__ there is approximately the same range of selection in durable press as in non durable press.

9. How do you think the appearance of a durable press garment compares to a non durable press garment after each has been worn several hours?

__13__ durable press retains a much better appearance than does non durable press

__2__ durable press retains a slightly better appearance than does non durable press

____ durable press retains approximately the same appearance as does non durable press

____ durable press appearance is not as good as non durable press

10. When buying garments, do you check the label for durable press qualities?

__9__ always __6__ sometimes __0__ never

11. Below is a list of statements that are sometimes associated with garments made from durable press fabric. Place a check (✓) in the column which best describes your experiences.

	Always or Usually	Sometimes	Seldom or Never
Seams remain smooth after laundering	12	2	1
Stains are easily removed	1	10	4
Durable press garments withstand wear as well as those without the durable press finish	10	3	2
Alterations can be made satisfactorily	4	6	5
The original price of a durable press garment is no higher than the same garment without durable press	2	9	4
Perspiration odor is easily removed from durable press garments	5	3	7
Zippers, binding, interfacing, or linings in durable press garments launder the same as they do in non durable press garments	9	5	1
No pressing is required with durable press garments	6	6	3
There is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments	10	4	1
There is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments	12	3	0

12. Check one answer for each of the following statements.

Agree	Disagree	
12	3	Durable press garments require no pressing if they are washed and dried correctly.
4	11	Fewer clothes are required with durable press garments because they can be laundered so easily.
13	2	The prolonged wrinkle-free appearanoe of a durable press garment substantiates any additional cost.
12	3	Durable press garments are expeoted to have a longer life than non durable press.
15	0	Durable press garments can be worn longer at a time, and still retain a better appearance than a garment of non durable press.
8	7	Durable press garments which have been tumble dried have a better appearance than durable press garments whioh have been line dried.
14	1	Durable press garments which are tumble dried must be removed from the dryer immediately upon drying, or pressing is necessary.
15	0	Durable press garments are easier to oare for than similar garments of non durable press.

13. How do you think the amount of time required to launder durable press garments oompares to non durable press garments?

3 more time is required for durable press beoause the loads should be smaller

12 same amount of time for durable press as non durable press as the loads oan be equal

0 less time for durable press beoause the loads can be larger

14. Do you seleot your own garments?

10 usually 5 sometimes 0 never

15. Do you earn the money with which to purchase your own durable press garments?

__1__ usually __7__ sometimes __7__ never

16. How many durable press garments do you expect to purchase during the next year?

____ zero ____ one ____ two ____ three

__7__ four or more __8__ don't know

17. Do you launder your own durable press garments?

__3__ usually __8__ sometimes __4__ never

18. How are your durable press garments usually washed?

__3__ by hand

__3__ in a wringer type washer at home

__8__ in an automatic washer at home

__2__ in an automatic washer at a laundromat

19. If you use an automatic washer, does it have a special setting for durable press?

__2__ yes __7__ no __1__ don't know

20. How are your durable press garments usually dried?

__5__ line dried

__7__ in an automatic dryer at home

__3__ in an automatic dryer at a laundromat

21. What is your classification in school?

__13__ junior

__2__ senior

HOW DO DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS COMPARE TO NON DURABLE PRESS?

The purpose of this survey is to discover the opinions of mothers of adolescent girls toward the use of durable press. Read each question carefully, then place a check (✓) in the blank that best describes your situation or opinion. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not need to write your name on this paper.

1. How many garments does your daughter own which are durable press?

   ___ zero 1 one 1 two 2 three

   10 four or more 1 don't know

2. When did your daughter obtain her first durable press garment?

   4 within the last year 3 more than three years ago

   2 more than one year ago 2 do not remember

   4 more than two years ago

3. When did your daughter obtain her last durable press garment?

   15 within the last year ___ more than three years ago

   ___ more than one year ago ___ do not remember

   ___ more than two years ago

4. What garments does your daughter now own which are durable press?

   12 blouses or shirts ___ coats

   8 skirts 1 bathrobe

   9 slacks or shorts _____ other (name article)

   12 dresses ___ none

   ___ jackets

5. How do you expect the life of a durable press garment to compare with a similar garment which is non durable press?

   1 a shorter life for the durable press garment

   9 a longer life for the durable press garment

   5 approximately the same life for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

6. What do you expect to pay for a durable press garment in comparison to the same garment without durable press?

__1__ slightly less for the durable press garment

__11__ slightly more for the durable press garment

__3__ approximately the same for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

7. How do you think the fit of a durable press garment compares with the fit of a non durable press garment?

__1__ durable press garments fit better than non durable press

__1__ durable press garments do not fit as well as non durable press

__13__ the fit is the same with durable press garments as with non durable press

8. How do you think the selection of durable press garments in your daughter's size compares to non durable press garments in her size?

____ there is a better selection in durable press than in non durable press

__3__ there is less selection in durable press than in non durable press

__12__ there is approximately the same range of selection in durable press as in non durable press

9. How do you think the appearance of a durable press garment compares to a non durable press garment after each has been worn several hours?

__12__ durable press retains a much better appearance than does non durable press

__3__ durable press retains a slightly better appearance than does non durable press

____ durable press retains approximately the same appearance as does non durable press

____ durable press appearance is not as good as non durable press

10. When buying garments, do you check the label for durable press qualities?

__9__ always __6__ sometimes __0__ never

11. Below is a list of statements that are sometimes associated with garments made from durable press fabric. Place a check (✓) in the column which best describes your experiences.

	Always or Usually	Sometimes	Seldom or Never
Seams remain smooth after laundering	7	8	0
Stains are easily removed	6	5	4
Durable press garments withstand wear as well as those without the durable press finish	10	4	1
Alterations can be made satisfactorily		10	5
The original price of a durable press garment is no higher than the same garment without durable press	6	7	2
Perspiration odor is easily removed from durable press garments	7	6	2
Zippers, binding, interfacing, or linings in durable press garments launder the same as they do in non durable press garments	11	2	2
No pressing is required with durable press garments	2	9	4
There is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments	11	3	1
There is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments	11	3	1

12. Check one answer for each of the following statements.

Agree	Disagree	
9	6	Durable press garments require no pressing if they are washed and dried correctly.
11	4	Fewer clothes are required with durable press garments because they can be laundered so easily.
13	2	The prolonged wrinkle-free appearance of a durable press garment substantiates any additional cost.
8	7	Durable press garments are expected to have a longer life than non durable press.
12	3	Durable press garments can be worn longer at a time, and still retain a better appearance than a garment of non durable press.
11	4	Durable press garments which have been tumble dried have a better appearance than durable press garments which have been line dried.
14	1	Durable press garments which are tumble dried must be removed from the dryer immediately upon drying, or pressing is necessary.
15	____	Durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press.

13. How do you think the amount of time required to launder durable press garments compares to non durable press garments?

5 more time is required for durable press because the loads should be smaller

9 same amount of time for durable press as non durable press as the loads can be equal

1 less time for durable press because the loads can be larger

14. Does your daughter select her own garmente?

__9__ usually __6__ sometimes __0__ never

15. Does your daughter earn the money with which to purchaee her own garmente?

__0__ usually __11__ sometimes __4__ never

16. How many durable prees garments do you expeot your daughter to purchase during the next year?

____ zero ____ one ____ two ____ three

__5__ four or more __10__ don't know

17. Does your daughter launder her own durable prees garments?

__2__ usually __6__ eometimes __7__ never

18. How are your daughter's durable prees garments usually washed?

__2__ by hand

__2__ in a wringer type washer at home

__10__ in an automatio washer at home

__1__ in an automatio washer at a laundromat

19. If you uee an automatic washer, does it have a special setting for durable press?

__9__ yes __2__ no ____ don't know

20. How are your daughter'e durable preee garments usually dried?

__5__ line dried

__13__ in an automatic dryer at home

__2__ in an automatio dryer at a laundromat

21. What is your daughter's classification in sohool?

__13__ Junior

__2__ Senior

Dear Parent:

As a graduate student of Kansas State University, and a teacher in the Wichita School System, I am asking for your assistance in comparing the opinions of mothers and their daughters toward durable press garments. This survey is a portion of the project report, which is required to complete my master of science degree in clothing and textiles. It is hoped that through this study a deeper understanding of the real feelings toward durable press can be obtained. This understanding should facilitate guidance for the present and future selection and use of durable press products.

The enclosed questionnaire is a survey of your experiences and opinions toward durable press garments. Please consider durable press and permanent press as synonymous terms. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not need to put your name on the questionnaire. Place a check mark (✓) in the blank that expresses your opinion. In some parts of this questionnaire, you may check several statements if more than one expresses your opinion. Please do not consult your daughter when filling it out. I want your opinion.

There are several questions which refer to your daughter's durable press garments. These questions refer to the daughter which is presently enrolled, as a junior or senior, in a high school clothing class, and brought this survey home to you.

Please return the completed questionnaire to school with your daughter tomorrow, if at all possible, and have her give it to her clothing teacher.

Your time, assistance, and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

I thank you,

Elda R. Nedrow

Elda R. Nedrow

HOW DO DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS COMPARE TO NON DURABLE PRESS?

The purpose of this survey is to discover the opinions of adolescent girls toward the use of durable press. Read each question carefully, then place a check (✓) in the blank that best describes your situation or opinion. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not need to put your name on this paper.

1. How many garments do you own which are durable press?

___ zero 4 one 5 two 4 three

24 four or more 3 don't know

2. When did you obtain your first durable press garment?

13 within the last year 1 more than three years ago

11 more than one year ago 10 do not remember

5 more than two years ago

3. When did you obtain your last durable press garment?

36 within the last year ___ more than three years ago

1 more than one year ago 3 do not remember

___ more than two years ago

4. What garments do you now own which are durable press?

32 blouses or shirts ___ coats

16 skirts 1 bathrobe

24 slacks or shorts slip (1) other (name article)

22 dresses ___ none

2 jackets

5. How do you expect the life of a durable press garment to compare with a similar garment which is non durable press?

7 a shorter life for the durable press garment

24 a longer life for the durable press garment

9 approximately the same life for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

6. What do you expect to pay for a durable press garment in comparison to the same garment without durable press properties?

__1__ slightly less for the durable press garment

__31__ slightly more for the durable press garment

__8__ approximately the same for the durable press garment compares with the fit of a non durable press garment

7. How do you think the fit of a durable press garment compares with the fit of a non durable press garment?

__10__ durable press garments fit better than non durable press

__2__ durable press garments do not fit as well as non durable press

__28__ the fit is the same with durable press garments as with non durable press

8. How do you think the selection of durable press garments in your size compare to non durable press garments?

__9__ there is a better selection in durable press than in non-durable press

__13__ there is less selection in durable press than in non durable press

__18__ there is approximately the same range of selection in durable press as in non durable press

9. How do you think the appearance of a durable press garment compares to a non durable press garment after each has been worn several hours?

__31__ durable press retains a much better appearance than does non durable press

__5__ durable press retains a slightly better appearance than does non durable press

__4__ durable press retains approximately the same appearance as does non durable press

____ durable press appearance is not as good as non durable press

10. When buying garments, do you check the label for durable press qualities?

__15__ always __24__ sometimes __1__ never

11. Below is a list of statements that are sometimes associated with garments made from durable press fabric. Place a check (✓) in the column which best describes your experiences.

	Always or Usually	Sometimes	Seldom or Never
Seams remain smooth after laundering	25	13	2
Stains are easily removed	8	27	5
Durable press garments withstand wear as well as those without the durable press finish	27	10	3
Alterations can be made satisfactorily	13	15	12
The original price of a durable press garment is no higher than the same garment without durable press	9	22	9
Perspiration odor is easily removed from durable press garments	17	15	8
Zippers, binding, interfacing, or linings in durable press garments launder the same as they do in non durable press garments	25	11	4
No pressing is required with durable press garments	16	19	5
There is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments	19	20	1
There is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments	25	15	0

12. Check one answer for each of the following statements.

Agree	Disagree	
27	13	Durable press garments require no pressing if they are washed and dried correctly.
14	26	Fewer clothes are required with durable press garments because they can be laundered so easily.
31	9	The prolonged wrinkle-free appearance of a durable press garment substantiates any additional cost.
30	10	Durable press garments are expected to have a longer life than non durable press.
39	1	Durable press garments can be worn longer at a time, and still retain a better appearance than a garment of non durable press.
27	13	Durable press garments which have been tumble dried have a better appearance than durable press garments which have been line dried.
37	3	Durable press garments which are tumble dried must be removed from the dryer immediately upon drying, or pressing is necessary.
40	0	Durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press.

13. How do you think the amount of time required to launder durable press garments compares to the time for non durable press garments?

5 more time is required for durable press because the loads should be smaller

31 same amount of time for durable press as non durable press as the loads can be equal

4 less time for durable press because the loads can be larger

14. Do you select your own garments?

32 usually 8 sometimes 0 never

15. Do you have money from a job or an allowance with which to purchase your own durable prese garments?

14 usually 17 eometimes 9 never

16. How many durable prese garmente do you expect to purchase during the next year?

____ zero ____ one ____ two 1 three

12 four or more 27 don't know

17. Do you launder your own durable press garmente?

12 usually 20 sometimee 8 never

18. How are your durable prees garments usually washed?

6 by hand

2 in a wringer type waeher at home

29 in an automatio waeher at home

3 in an automatio washer at a laundromat

19. If you use an automatio washer, doee it have a speoial eetting for durable press?

15 yee 17 no 5 don't know

3 do not use an automatio waeher

20. How are your durable press garmente ueually dried?

11 line dried

25 in an automatio dryer at home

4 in an automatio dryer at a laundromat

21. What is your olaesifioation in eohool?

30 Junior

10 Senior

HOW DO DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS COMPARE TO NON DURABLE PRESS?

The purpose of this survey is to discover the opinions of mothers of adolescent girls toward the use of durable press. Read each question carefully, then place a check (✓) in the blank that best describes your situation or opinion. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not need to write your name on this paper.

1. How many garments does your daughter own which are durable press?

___ zero 3 one 1 two 5 three 29 four or more

2 don't know

2. When did your daughter obtain her first durable press garment?

6 within the last year 8 more than three years ago

11 more than one year ago 6 do not remember

10 more than two years ago

3. When did your daughter obtain her last durable press garment?

35 within the last year ___ more than three years ago

3 more than one year ago 2 do not remember

___ more than two years ago

4. What garments does your daughter now own which are durable press?

36 blouses or shirts ___ coats

22 skirts 1 bathrobe

26 slacks or shorts slip (1) other (name article)

27 dresses ___ none

2 jackets

5. How do you expect the life of a durable press garment to compare with a similar garment which is non durable press?

4 a shorter life for the durable press garment

25 a longer life for the durable press garment

11 approximately the same life for the durable press garment as the non durable press garment

6. What do you expsot to pay for a durable press garment in oomparison to ths sams garmsnt without durabls prsss?

__1__ slightly less for the durabls prsss garment

__32__ slightly mors for ths durable press garment

__7__ approximatsly ths same for the durable press garment as the non durabls press garmsnt

7. How do you think the fit of a durabls prsss garment oomparss with the fit of a non durabls press garmsnt?

__12__ durable prsss garments fit bsttsr than non durable prsss

__1__ durable press garmsnts do not fit as well as non durable press

__27__ ths fit is the same with durabls press garmsnts as with non durabls prsss

8. How do you think the sslsotion of durabls press garments in your daughter's size oomparss to non durable press garments in her sizs?

__10__ thsre is a bettsr ssleotion in durable press than in non durabls prsss

__10__ there is less sslsotion in durable press than in non durabls press

__20__ there is approximately ths same rangs of seleotion in durable prsss as in non durabls press

9. How do you think ths appearance of a durabls prsss garment compares to a non durabls prsss garment after each has bssn worn ssveral hours?

__33__ durabls press retains a muoh bettsr appsaranos than does non durable press

__6__ durable press retains a slightly better appsaranos than does non durable press

__1__ durable press retains approximately ths same appsarancs as doss non durable prsss

____ durabls press appearancs is not as good as non durable press

10. When buying garments, do you ohsok ths label for durabls prsss qualities?

__26__ always __14__ sometimss __0__ nsvsr

11. Below is a list of statements that are sometimes associated with garments made from durable press fabric. Place a check (✓) in the column which best describes your experiences.

	Always or Usually	Sometimes	Seldom or Never
Seams remain smooth after laundering	20	18	2
Stains are easily removed	17	17	6
Durable press garments withstand wear as well as those without the durable press finish	28	9	3
Alterations can be made satisfactorily	8	21	11
The original price of a durable press garment is no higher than the same garment without durable press	11	25	4
Perspiration odor is easily removed from durable press garments	19	16	5
Zippers, binding, interfacing, or linings in durable press garments launder the same as they do in non durable press garments	30	8	2
No pressing is required with durable press garments	8	23	9
There is an adequate choice of styles available of durable press garments	26	12	2
There is an adequate choice of colors available of durable press garments	27	11	2

12. Check one answer for each of the following statements.

Agree	Disagree	
23	17	Durable press garments require no pressing if they are washed and dried correctly.
30	10	Fewer clothes are required with durable press garments because they can be laundered so easily.
33	7	The prolonged wrinkle-free appearance of a durable press garment substantiates any additional cost.
23	17	Durable press garments are expected to have a longer life than non durable press garments.
37	3	Durable press garments can be worn longer at a time, and still retain a better appearance than a garment of non durable press.
34	6	Durable press garments which have been tumble dried have a better appearance than durable press garments which have been line dried.
40	0	Durable press garments which are tumble dried must be removed from the dryer immediately upon drying, or pressing is necessary.
40	0	Durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press.

13. How do you think the amount of time required to launder durable press garments compares to none durable press garments?

12 more time is required for durable press because the loads should be smaller

22 same amount of time for durable press as non durable press because the loads can be equal

6 lees time for durable press because the loads can be larger

14. Does your daughter seleot her own garments?

31 usually 9 sometimes 0 never

15. Does your daughter have money from a job or allowance with which to purchase her own garments?

__8__ usually __27__ sometimes __5__ never

16. How many durable press garments do you expect your daughter to purchase during the next year?

____ zero ____ one ____ two __3__ three __12__ four or more

__25__ don't know

17. Does your daughter launder her own durable press garments?

__8__ usually __23__ sometimes __9__ never

18. How are your daughter's durable press garments usually washed?

__4__ by hand

__2__ in a wringer type washer at home

__32__ in an automatic washer at home

__2__ in an automatic washer at a laundromat

19. If you use an automatic washer, does it have a special setting for durable press?

__25__ yes __9__ no ____ don't know

__6__ do not use an automatic washer

20. How are your daughter's durable press garments usually dried?

__12__ line dried

__25__ in an automatic dryer at home

__3__ in an automatic dryer at a laundromat

21. What is your daughter's classification in school?

__30__ Junior

__10__ Senior

MOTHERS' AND DAUGHTERS' OPINIONS CONCERNING DURABLE PRESS GARMENTS

by

ELDA RUTH NEDROW

B. S., Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 1956

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Clothing and Textiles

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1968

Durable press is a term used to describe a treatment applied to a fabric for preventing both the removal of creases and the formation of wrinkles during the wearing and washing of a garment. Durable press fabrics are becoming a more accepted and important element in our society. The objectives of this study were (1) to compare opinions, knowledge, and practices of adolescent girls toward durable press with those of their mothers; and (2) to compare areas of agreement and disagreement between adolescent girls and their mothers regarding durable press garments.

The eighty subjects used for the study were comprised of forty junior and senior girls enrolled in clothing classes at Wichita High School South, and their mothers. A check list questionnaire was used for collecting data. The responses of the forty daughters were compared to the mothers' responses.

In view of the findings being based on a limited sample, it was concluded that:

(1) Durable press garments retain a better appearance than non durable press garments after each has been worn several hours.

(2) The fit of durable press garments compares favorably with the fit of non durable press garments.

(3) Choices of styles and colors available of durable press garments is adequate.

(4) The life of durable press fabric is satisfactory for adolescent girls.

(5) The mothers agreed, but the daughters disagreed, that if all garments were durable press, a lesser number of garments would be necessary due to ease of laundering.

(6) Durable press garments are easier to care for than similar garments of non durable press.

(7) Contrary to reported problems in the literature with durable press garments, mothers and daughters were satisfied with the appearance of seams after laundering, and the wearing qualities of durable press fabric.

Further research in this area would prove beneficial for the fields of Clothing, Textiles, and Interior Design, Family Economics, and Family and Child Development. Research is needed to help adolescent girls become intelligent, well groomed consumers and competent homemakers.